

ENTOMOLOGY.—*Species of beetles of the genus Lactica from the West Indies closely related to L. tibialis* (Olivier).¹ DORIS H. BLAKE. (Communicated by ALAN STONE.)

Olivier described *Altica tibialis* from a specimen in the Bosc collection from near Charleston, S. C. There are a great many pale yellow species of *Lactica* very similar in coloration to *tibialis* that occur in Mexico, Central and South America, and also in the West Indies. The purpose of this paper is to draw attention to some of the West Indian species, at least one of which has been confused with *tibialis*. These species, although very closely related, do show distinct differences in coloration, shape, and also in the internal structure of the genitalia. Most of the species here dealt with are from the Bahamas and Cuba, and one from Dominica, which is a little more distinct in its differences, is also included. No doubt more species from other islands of the West Indies will come to light in the course of time.

Lactica tibialis (Olivier)

FIGS. 2, 4

- Altica tibialis* Olivier, Ent. 6: 702. 1808.
Altica ocreata Say, New Species found by Baradino in Louisiana: 7. New Harmony, 1832.
Monomacra tibialis DeJean Catalogue: 413. 1837.
Lactica tibialis Baly (not Olivier), H. Clark, Journ. Ent. 1(6): 458. 1862.
Lactica tibialis Harold, Col. Hefte 13: 90. 1875.

Lactica tibialis is represented in the U. S. National Museum collection by specimens from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri, and one is labeled Michigan. There are three specimens from Brownsville, Tex., that have a paler coloration. Instead of having entirely dark tibiae and tarsi, the tibiae in two of these are darkened only along the outer edge, and in the third specimen only the apices of the femora, tibiae, and tarsi are slightly darker. The aedeagus seems to have a sharper and narrower tip, although of the same shape. Possibly this is a southern race, but from the little material at hand I hesitate to make more than a mention of the differences.

¹ Received March 14, 1946.

Lactica religata (Jacq. du Val)

FIG. 1

- Monomacra religata* Jacq. du Val, Hist. phys. Cuba, Ins. 7: 311. 1856; Suffrian, Arch. für Naturg. 34: 193. 1868.
Lactica tibialis Gemminger and Harold, Catalogue 12: 3499. 1876 (not *tibialis* Olivier).

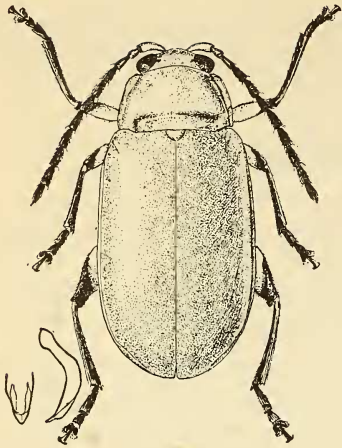
The name *Lactica tibialis* has been applied not only to the North American species but also to the Cuban one. The Cuban species is similarly colored but in general is a little smaller. There are also slight differences in the prothorax, the North American species having a proportionately wider one with a more marked obtuse angle anteriorly. Furthermore, the aedeagus of *tibialis* is very narrow and acute at the tip, whereas the tip of the Cuban aedeagus is more broadly rounded.

Lactica dominicae, n. sp.

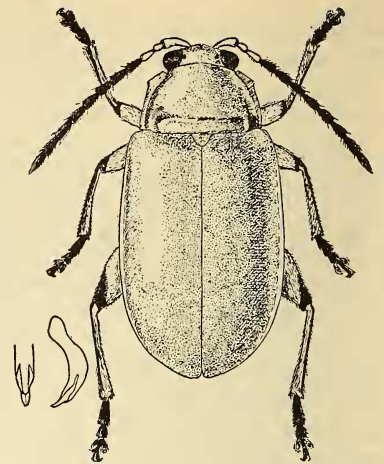
FIG. 7

Elongate-oblong, pale yellow, impunctate, faintly shining, mouth parts darker, antennae except three basal joints dark, legs with dark apices to femora and tibiae and tarsi dark; thorax with sides almost straight, very little widened at base, antennae extending nearly to the middle of the elytra.

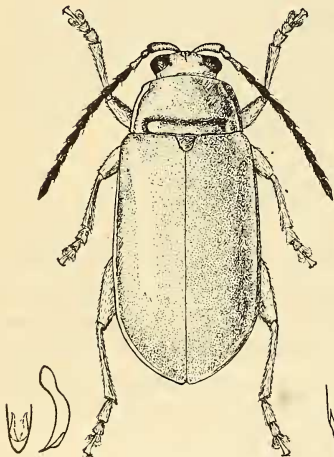
Head with interocular space less than half width of head; eyes large; frontal tubercles distinct, a little produced; interantennal area sharp and keel-shaped, a large puncture grouped with two or more smaller punctures on each side of vertex near the eye; mouth parts tinged with dark. Antennae long and slender, extending to the middle of the elytra, except for the basal joints entirely dark, the first joint entirely pale, the second and third deepening in color; fourth longest, 5, 6, and 7 subequal and nearly as long as fourth, the remainder gradually shortening. Prothorax about a third wider than long with the sides nearly straight, very little wider at base than anteriorly; basal sulcus deep and distinct throughout. Elytra with small humeri, elongate, smooth, faintly shining. Body beneath entirely pale, lightly pubescent. Legs pale with apices of femora and



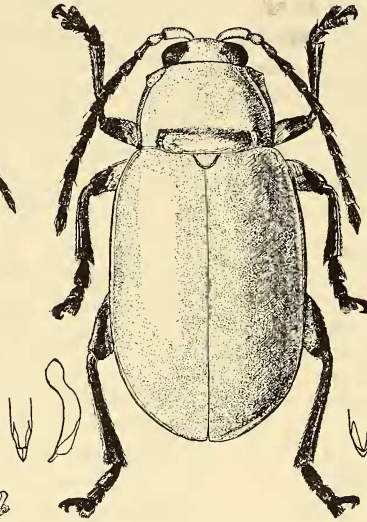
1. *Lactica reliqata* Jacq. du Val.



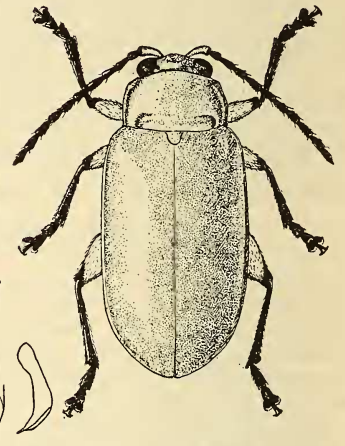
2. *Lactica tibialis* Oliv. var.



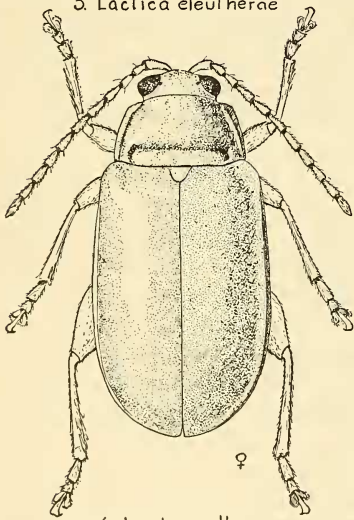
3. *Lactica eleutherae*



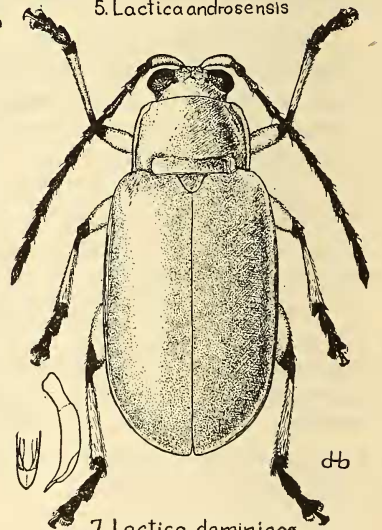
4. *Lactica tibialis* Oliv.



5. *Lactica androsensis*



6. *Lactica albina*



7. *Lactica dominicae*

FIGS. 1-7.—West Indian species of *Lactica*.

tibiae and tarsi dark. Length 4 mm; width 2 mm.

Type male, U.S.N.M. No. 57877.

Type locality.—Saltoun Estate, 800 feet altitude, Dominica, B.W.I., collected June 30, 1941, by R. G. Fennah.

Remarks.—The distinguishing character of this species is the thorax with its nearly straight sides, and also the unusually long antennae.

***Lactica eleutheræ*, n. sp.**

FIG. 3

Elongate-oblong, shining, pale yellow with dark antennae. Basal sulcus on thorax deeply impressed.

Head with interocular space approximately half width of head, frontal tubercles distinct with a depression on each side of them on the vertex, a deep puncture also near the eye; interantennal area not produced but flat; head entirely pale. Antennae with the three basal joints pale, remainder dark and subequal, not reaching the middle of the elytra. Prothorax almost twice as wide as long with slightly rounded sides, a little broader at the base; a deeply impressed basal sulcus. Elytra shining, impunctate, smooth, with small humeri. Body beneath entirely pale, shining, lightly pubescent. Legs pale. Length 3.2–3.4 mm; width 1.5 mm.

Type male and one paratype, also male, U.S.N.M. No. 57878.

Type locality.—Eleuthera Island, Bahamas, collected by H. F. Wickham July 9–15.

Remarks.—This species differs from the Cuban one by having entirely pale legs. It is also more highly polished and has a more deeply impressed basal sulcus on the prothorax.

***Lactica albina*, n. sp.**

FIG. 6

Elongate-oblong, impunctate, faintly shining, entirely pale yellow without dark markings on legs or antennae.

Head with interocular space approximately half width of head; frontal tubercles rather flat and indistinct, interantennal area not sharply keeled but flat, very little produced; a large puncture on each side of vertex near eye; entirely pale. Antennae not extending to the mid-

dle of the elytra, entirely pale, fourth and fifth joints subequal and a little longer than the remainder, all joints subequal. Prothorax more than a third wider than long with slightly rounded sides, broadening a little towards base; basal sulcus clearly marked. Elytra smooth, impunctate, faintly shining, humeri small. Body beneath pale, shining, nearly glabrous. Legs entirely pale. Length 3.9 mm; width 1.8 mm.

Type female, U.S.N.M. No. 57879.

Type locality.—Egg Island, Bahamas, collected on May 13 by H. F. Wickham.

Remarks.—This is the only species of the group from the West Indies that is entirely pale. Unfortunately, no male has been examined.

***Lactica androsensis*, n. sp.**

FIG. 5

Elongate-oblong, shining, impunctate, pale yellow with all except the basal joint of the antennae dark, apex of femora, tibiae, and tarsi dark.

Head with interocular space approximately half its width, polished pale yellow with mouth parts tending to be darker; frontal tubercles with a depression between and on either side of them; interantennal area flat, the usual large puncture near the eye. Antennae not extending to the middle of the elytra, all but the basal joint dark, joints 4–11 subequal. Prothorax not quite twice as broad as long, with sides slightly arcuate, a little wider at base; basal sulcus clearly marked. Elytra smooth, pale, polished, humeral prominences small. Body beneath entirely pale and lightly pubescent. Legs with the apex of the femora, and the tibiae and tarsi dark. Length 3.2–3.7 mm; width 1.6–1.7 mm.

Type male (M.C.Z. No. 27374) and 2 paratypes (1 in U.S.N.M. No. 57880).

Type locality.—Andros Island, Bahamas, collected Aug. 1–10, 1904 by Barber (? Thomas Barbour).

Remarks.—In coloration this is very much like the Cuban species and *tibialis*, although the femora are darkened only at the tip, whereas in the other two the dark extends farther back. The aedeagus is different from either.